

1 **IN THE CLAIMS**

2 Please cancel claims 5-9, 11-12, 20-24 and 26-27, and amend the claims as follows:

3
4 --1. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for collecting samples for mass spectrometric
5 analysis, said apparatus comprising:

6 a tray positioned external to a mass analyzer for holding ~~said~~ sample material;

7 ~~a robotic interface; and~~

8 a capillary having an inlet end and an outlet end, said inlet end for receiving ions

9 from said tray and said outlet end for introducing said ions into said mass

10 analyzer; and

11 a robotic interface for controlling the position of said inlet end to accept ions

12 produced from said sample material on said tray;

13 wherein said outlet end of said capillary is positioned such that said ions ~~produced from~~
14 ~~said samples~~ are introduced into said ~~[[a]]~~ mass analyzer, ~~and wherein said inlet end of said~~
15 ~~capillary is positioned by said robotic interface for accepting ions of said samples.~~

16
17 2. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said capillary comprises a channel
18 having a helical structure.

19
20 3. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said inlet ends and said outlet ends
21 comprise conductive end caps.

1 4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ions are
2 transported from said tray ~~an ionization source~~ into a first vacuum region of said [[a]] mass
3 analyzer spectrometer.

4
5 5. - 9. (Cancelled)

6
7 10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 [[4]], wherein ~~said ionization of~~
8 said sample material is performed using ~~source~~ is a matrix assisted laser desorption ionization
9 source.

10
11 11. - 12. (Cancelled)

12
13 13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is used
14 to multiplex a plurality of sample materials.

1 14. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for introducing ions produced from a sample
2 material into [collecting samples for analysis in] a mass spectrometer, said apparatus comprising:
3 a tray for holding at least one type of said sample material;
4 ~~a robotic interface;~~
5 a multiple section capillary including first and second capillary sections each having
6 an inlet end and an outlet end; ~~and~~
7 a union for coaxially connecting said first capillary section to said second capillary
8 section having first and second openings; and
9 a robotic interface including means for producing ions from said sample material
10 and means for controlling said inlet end of said first capillary section to
11 accept said ions;
12 wherein said outlet end of said first capillary section is removably positioned within ~~said~~
13 ~~first opening of~~ said union, and wherein said inlet of said second capillary section is removably
14 positioned within ~~said second opening of~~ said union such that said ions flow from said first section
15 into said second section.

16
17 15. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein at least one of said
18 first section or said second section comprises a channel having a helical structure.

19
20 16. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said union comprises means for
21 removably securing said ends of said first and second sections.

1 17. **(Original)** An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said union comprises means for
2 providing an airtight seal between said ends of said first and second sections within said union.

3
4 18. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said inlet ends and
5 said outlet ends of said capillary sections comprise conductive end caps.

6
7 19. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to claim 14 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said ions are
8 transported from said tray ~~an ionization source~~ into a first vacuum region of said ~~[[a]]~~ mass
9 analyzer spectrometer.

10
11 20. - 24. **(Cancelled)**

12
13 25. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to claim 14 ~~[[19]]~~, wherein ~~said ionization~~
14 of said sample material is performed by source ~~is a matrix assisted laser desorption ionization~~
15 source.

16
17 26. - 27. **(Cancelled)**

18
19 28. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said apparatus is
20 used to multiplex a plurality of sample materials.

1 29. (New) An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said first section is composed of a
2 flexible material.

3
4 30. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said capillary is a multiple section
5 capillary having a first section including an inlet end and an outlet end, said first section for receiving
6 ions from said tray, and a second section having an inlet end and an outlet end, wherein said outlet
7 end of said first section is coaxially positioned with said inlet end of said second section, and said
8 outlet end of said second section is positioned such that said ions are introduced into a mass
9 analyzer.

10
11 31. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said first section or
12 said second section comprises a channel having a helical structure.

13
14 32. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said first section or
15 said second section comprises a channel having a linear structure.

16
17 33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein at least one of said first section or
18 said second section comprises a channel having a sinusoidal structure.

19
20 34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said first and second sections are
21 removably connected with a union.

1 35. (New) An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said union comprises means for
2 providing an airtight seal between said ends of said first and second sections within said union.

3
4 36. (New) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said first section is composed of a
5 flexible material.

6
7 37. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said capillary is composed of a flexible
8 material.

1 **IN THE DRAWINGS**

2 Please substitute the attached replacement drawings (10 sheets) for the originally filed
3 drawings. No new matter has been added.